

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 SY-04 A-01 OPR-02 COME-00 EB-11

LAB-06 SIL-01 OS-03 AID-20 CU-04 PC-10 EUR-25 IO-14

DRC-01 /197 W

----- 106200

R 091330Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8888

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 5196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS SCUL ET

SUBJECT: STUDENTS AND MILITARY

REFS: (A) ADDIS 5092 AND USINFO 07/1513Z MAY; (B) ADDIS 3723

1. RADIO MAY 7 CARRIED MINDEFENSE (MOD) ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ALL SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOULD REPORT TO THEIR SCHOOLS MAY 8 TO DISCUSS SCHOOL SITUATION. STUDENTS CONGREGATED AT MAJOR ADDIS SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE MOD AND MINEDUCATION DELEGATIONS.

2. ACCORDING RELIABLE TEACHER WHO ATTENDED, LARGE MILITARY DELEGATION COMPOSED ARMY, AIR FORCE AND POLICE REPS SUGGESTED TO STUDENTS AT MENELIK II SCHOOL (ETHIOPIA'S LARGEST) THAT 11 ADDIS SCHOOLS SEND FIVE STUDENT REPS EACH TO DECIDE ON SCHOOL LEAVING EXAM (SCHEDULED MAY 13) AND EDUCATION PROBLEMS IN GENERAL. REPORTEDLY, MENELIK AND OTHER SCHOOL STUDENTS REBUFFED IDEA,
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SAYING THEY UNWILLING TAKE EXAM AT THIS TIME. STUDENTS CHIDED

MILITARY ON OVERSTEPPING THEIR FUNCTION BY BECOMING MEDIATORS IN LABOR AND STUDENT DISPUTES, CLAIMED IEG SHOULD HAVE ACTIVELY MEDIATED IN FEBRUARY IN ORDER SAVE SCHOOL YEAR AND LEAVING EXAM, AND REITERATED THEIR UNCONDITIONAL DEMANDS, INCLUDING RESIGNATION PM ENDALKACHEW AND THOSE MENTIONED IN REF B. MENELIK STUFANTS ADDED THAT NEW CABINET HAD IGNORED THEIR PROBLEMS SINCE THEY OPPOSED ENDALKACHEW. (REPORTEDLY, TEFERI MAKONNEN STUDENTS REFUSED EVEN LISTEN TO MILITARY DEL AND WALKED OUT.)

3. WE UNDERSTAND SOME STUDENT BODIES DID ELECT REPS WHO WOULD MEET WITH MOD IF MAJORITY OTHER SCHOOLS AGREED DO SO. TWELFTH GRADERS REPORTEDLY DECIDED THAT IN ANY EVENT NONE OF THEM WOULD TAKE LEAVING EXAM NEXT WEEK. WE HEAR THAT NUMBER SCHOOLS DID SEND REPS TO MOD FOR DISCUSSION MAY 8.

4. COMMENT: EDUCATION SYSTEM WILL FACE NUMEROUS PROBLEMS COMING SCHOOL YEAR. PRIMARY GRADES GENERALLY REMAIN IN OPERATION, SO BULGE AT JUNIOR HIGH LEVEL INEVITABLE. HOW IEG DEALS WITH HSIU ADMISSION PROBLEMS, ETC., WILL REVERBERATE AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. BASED ON PROCEEDINGS OF YESTERDAY'S MEETINGS AND RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH STUDENTS, IT OUT IMPRESSION THAT ACTIVE THIRD OF STUDENTS FEELING EVEN MORE FRUSTRATED BY "HALF-BAKED REVOLUTION" AND SHOWING MORE DETERMINATION TAKE THEIR MESSAGE TO LABORERS AND TENANT FARMERS. WYMAN

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